REMARKS/ARGUMENTS

Claims 1-32 are pending in the application. Claims 22-32 are withdrawn from consideration. Claims 1-21 are rejected. No new matter has been introduced into the application. As explained in more detail below, Applicants submit that all claims are in condition for allowance and respectfully request such action.

Claim Rejections – 35 USC §102

Claims 1, 2, 3, and 5 to 19 stand rejected under 35 USC §102(b) as being anticipated by Rothermel (U.S. Patent No. 6,678,827). The Applicants respectfully traverse the rejection in view of the Remarks below.

In the previous Amendment, claim 1 was amended to more clearly indicate the recited security policy is "written in a security protocol independent security policy language." At most Rothermal teaches distributing a security policy template to network security devices. Rothermal does not teach or suggest using a security protocol independent security policy language to create such a policy template or the policy itself. As indicated in paragraph 6 of the present application, a security framework that is security protocol independent can support multiple cryptographic technologies. Moreover, as indicated in paragraph 43 of the present application, abstracting underlying protocols facilitates interoperability <u>with other systems</u>. This is in contrast to the system disclosed in Rothermel in which the security policy template must use the existing security protocols utilized by the network security devices, as explained in more detail below.

The Office Action alleges that Col. 13, line 30 to Col. 14, line 13 of Rothermal demonstrates a system having interoperability with multiple OSs, and therefore must be utilizing a security policy written in a security protocol independent security policy language. The Applicants respectfully disagree with such an interpretation since the cited text explicitly states:

> In the illustrated embodiment, the NSD is a security appliance device capable of <u>executing the Linux operating system</u>...The NSD software components include a version of the Linux OS kernel 610 which is capable of executing on the NSD to provide <u>various OS functionality</u> (e.g., TCP/IP support, network drivers, etc.).

Rothermel at Col. 13, lines 33 – 43; emphasis added. Indeed, the cited text further discusses software components "which interacts directly with the OS", such as the packet filter engine, the

firewall component, and functionality-specific drivers (e.g., VPN drivers). Therefore, since all the devices are managed in conjunction with the LINUX OS, there is no use or motivation to even consider applying a security policy written in a security protocol independent security policy language. The Applicants note that Rothermel later mentions that the LINUX OS could be replaced, there is no mention or suggested to mix in other OSs together or amend the current setup discussed in relation to Fig. 6 for which the Office Action cites.

In fact, Rothermal merely discloses a system for managing multiple related network security devices with a security policy template. Rothermel never states or even suggests that the multiple security devices assigned to a specific supervisor device utilize a security policy written in a security protocol independent language. Rather, a copy of a security policy template is sent to related network security devices from a supervisor device. There is no specific teaching or suggestion that the template is even written in a security protocol independent language, rather that the template is tailored towards specific devices. The Applicants cannot locate any disclaimer to this interpretation.

The Applicants further disagree with the allegation that Col. 7, lines 3 – 57 shows a security policy written in a security protocol independent language. The relevant portion of the cited text states:

> When a user of the manager device desires to establish or modify a security policy for one or more NSDs such as NSDs 130 and 140, the user first selects one of the security policy templates 113 or creates a new security policy template. Security policy templates are discussed in greater detail below with respect to FIG. 3. The manager device then determines the one or more primary supervisor devices for the NSDs of interest, <u>such as by retrieving this information from its specific security policy information 116. If this information is not stored by the manager device, the manager device can obtain the information in a variety of ways, such as by querying the NSDs of interest or by querying the various known supervisor devices.</u>

emphasis added. As explained throughout the text of Rothermel, a copy of a specific security policy template is sent to related network security devices from a supervisor device. If the systems of Rothermel could utilize a security protocol independent language, there would be no reason to query specific supervisor devices or otherwise determine appropriate supervisor devices, because any of them could be utilized. For example, as seen in Figure 1 and explained

in Col. 6, only certain network security devices are in communication with certain supervisor devices.

For at least these reasons, the Applicant respectfully submits that claim 1 is in condition for allowance. Claims 2, 3, and 5 to 19 ultimately depend from claim 1 and are in condition for allowance for at least the same reasons as claim 1.

Claim Rejections – 35 USC §103

Claims 4, 20, and 21 stand rejected under 35 USC §103(a) as being unpatentable over Rothermel as applied to claim 1 above, and further in view of Saulpaugh (U.S. Patent No. 6,850,979).
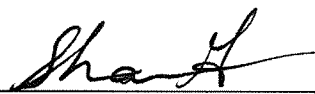
Claims 4, 20 and 21 each ultimately depend from claim 1 and are in condition for allowance for at least the same reasons as claim 1.

CONCLUSION

The claims as now presented are believed to be in allowable condition. No new matter has been introduced into the application. In light of the above arguments, applicants respectfully request reconsideration of the application and allowance of all pending claims. The Examiner is invited to contact the undersigned should it be deemed necessary to facilitate prosecution of the application.

Respectfully submitted,

Date: *May 30, 2006*

Shawn P. Gorman
Registration No. 56,197
BANNER & WITCOFF, LTD.
10 S. Wacker Drive
Suite 3000
Chicago, IL 60606-7407
Telephone: 312-463-5000
Facsimile: 312-463-5001